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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--29 DECEMBER 1961**1. LAOS:**

A. FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH PRODUCED AN INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN THE THREE PRINCES, SOUPHANOUVONG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS RETURNING TO THE PLAINE DES JARRES. HOWEVER, SOUVANNA, WHO CONFERRED EARLIER YESTERDAY WITH A NUMBER OF LAOTIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, IS TAKING A CONCILIATORY STANCE AND HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT HE PLANS TO PULL OUT IMMEDIATELY. BLOC DIPLOMATS IN VIENTIANE, MEANWHILE, ARE FLOATING SUGGESTIONS THAT THE FORMAL MEETING OF THE THREE PRINCES BE RESCHEDULED, WITH A SHIFT OF VENUE TO GENEVA.

B. WHILE THIS IS GOING ON, HOWEVER, SOUVANNA HAS SOME REASON FOR CONCERN OVER THE COHESION OF THE MILITARY FORCES BACKING HIM. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE EVIDENCE, OF WHICH SOUVANNA HIMSELF IS AWARE, OF INCREASING FRICTION BETWEEN KONG LE AND PATHET LAO UNITS. BESIDES SOME FAIRLY TRIVIAL ISSUES BETWEEN THEM, THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OVER WHICH GROUP SHOULD HOLD WHICH AREAS.

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2. CONGO:

A. THERE WAS A SMALL-SCALE CLASH BETWEEN UN AND KATANGA FORCES IN ELIZABETHVILLE YESTERDAY.

B. THERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT THE UNION MINIERE HAS COME AROUND TO THE VIEW THAT THE KATANGANS SHOULD RELAX THEIR INTRANSIGENCE. KATANGAN FOREIGN MINISTER KIMBA CONCEDED IN BRUSSELS YESTERDAY THAT THE KATANGANS AND THE UNION DO NOT SEE THINGS ENTIRELY EYE TO EYE.

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D. RHODESIA'S WELENSKY IS BEGINNING TO SHOW SOME SENSITIVITY TO INTERNATIONAL CHARGES THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN ABETTING THE KATANGANS. HE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO TIGHTEN BORDER CONTROLS.

E. THE UN HAS NOT YET CARRIED OUT PLANS TO BRING THE 900-MAN CONTINGENT OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TROOPS INTO NORTHERN KATANGA BUT ASCRIBES THE DELAY TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

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4. NOTES:

A. THE SOUNDS HANOI HAS BEEN MAKING LATELY LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAY BE GETTING READY FOR MORE EXTENSIVE AND MORE OPEN ASSISTANCE TO THE VIET CONG.

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B. WE HAVE RELATIVELY GOOD INFORMATION THAT THE POLES ARE RELEASING THE CONSCRIPTS HELD OVER IN SERVICE LAST FALL, WHICH COMPLEMENTS INDICATIONS THAT MOSCOW IS PLANNING SIMILAR ACTION.

C. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT INTO EASTERN EUROPE SINCE THE 26TH. WE CANNOT TELL YET WHETHER THE MOVEMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED OR WE ARE SEEING ONLY A TEMPORARY RESPITE.

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D. [REDACTED] TROUBLE TO BREAK OUT IN THE URUNDI PART OF THE RUANDA-URUNDI TRUSTEESHIP WHEN LOCAL AUTONOMY IS GRANTED ON THE FIRST OF THE YEAR.

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[REDACTED] TRIBAL ANIMOSITIES AND WAXI... ANTI-WHITE SENTIMENT.

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